

AUGUST 17, 1976

BERLIN AND THE HELSINKI AGREEMENTS

ANNCR: RECENT EAST GERMAN ATTEMPTS TO NIBBLE AWAY AT WEST BERLIN'S FREEDOM AND CLOSE TIES WITH WEST GERMANY PROMPT THESE THOUGHTS FROM NEWS ANALYST JOHN ALBERT:

VOICE: LAST WEEK'S ANNIVERSARY OF THE ERECTION OF THE BERLIN WALL -- A SYMBOL OF GERMANY'S DIVISION -- COINCIDED WITH A NUMBER OF INCIDENTS ON THE BORDER WHICH INCREASED TENSION BETWEEN WEST AND EAST GERMANY. EAST GERMAN BORDER GUARDS SEVERAL TIMES SHOT AT WEST GERMAN TOURISTS WHO INADVERTENTLY HAD WANDERED ACROSS THE BORDER INTO EAST GERMANY. ONE VICTIM OF THIS INDISCRIMINATE SHOOTING WAS AN ITALIAN COMMUNIST TRUCK DRIVER WHO ALLEGEDLY WENT BEYOND THE BORDER CROSSING.

IN ALL, NO FEWER THAN 168 PERSONS HAVE BEEN KILLED BY EAST GERMAN GUARD AND LAND MINES SINCE THE BORDER WAS SEALED BY EAST GERMANY IN 1961. ALSO LAST WEEK, A NUMBER OF WEST GERMAN BUSES, CARRYING PARTICIPANTS FOR A RALLY IN WEST BERLIN IN PROTEST AGAINST THE WALL, WERE TURNED BACK BY EAST GERMAN GUARDS--IN VIOLATION OF THE FOUR-POWER AGREEMENT GUARANTEEING FREE ACCESS TO AND FROM WEST BERLIN. THE THREE WESTERN ALLIES ON FRIDAY PROTESTED AGAINST THIS MOVE--AND BONN CALLED FOR A MEETING WITH THE EAST GERMANS TO DISCUSS IT. THE EAST GERMANS FINALLY AGREED TO THE MEETING WHICH WILL TAKE PLACE TOMORROW (WEDNESDAY) AFTER SEVERAL DAYS OF HESITATION.

THESE INCIDENTS ARE ONLY THE MORE FLAGRANT ACTIONS BY THE EAST GERMAN AUTHORITIES IN THEIR EFFORTS TO PREVENT WEST BERLIN FROM MAINTAINING ITS ECONOMIC AND CULTURAL TIES WITH THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY.

IT WAS THE FOUR-POWER AGREEMENT ON BERLIN WHICH THE WEST MADE THE TEST CASE OF EAST-WEST DETENTE. IT WAS ONLY AFTER THIS

AGREEMENT WAS CONCLUDED, AND WITH IT THE BASIC AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE TWO GERMANY'S, THAT THE WEST WAS READY TO CONSIDER THE HOLDING OF THE HELSINKI CONFERENCE. IN ITS FIRST ARTICLE THE BASIC AGREEMENT STATES: "THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY AND THE GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC DEVELOP NORMAL GOOD-NEIGHBORLY RELATIONS WITH EACH OTHER ON THE BASIS OF EQUALITY." AND IT WAS THE HELSINKI CONFERENCE, WHICH NOT ONLY RECOGNIZED EXISTING BORDERS IN EUROPE, BUT ALSO FORMULATED COMMITMENTS FOR THE PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN ALL PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES.

(OPT) IT IS THE BRUTALITY WITH WHICH THE EAST GERMAN AUTHORITIES HAVE REACTED TO INADVERTENT WEST GERMAN BORDER INTRUSIONS THAT HAS SHOCKED THE WESTERN WORLD. IN THEIR ATTEMPTS TO HERMETICALLY SEAL OFF THEIR BORDER WITH WEST GERMANY AND MAKE IT AN INTERNATIONAL FRONTIER, THE EAST GERMAN AUTHORITIES HAVE CREATED VAST MINE FIELDS AND BARRICADES ALONG THE VAST BORDER AND ARE EMPLOYING ABOUT 60,000 MEN TO POLICE THE NO MAN'S LAND. (END OPT)

THE BONN GOVERNMENT THUS FAR HAS REACTED WITH MODERATION TO THE RECENT SHOOTING INCIDENTS AND AVOIDED ALL THREATS OF CANCELING ITS FAR-REACHING TRADE AND CREDIT AGREEMENTS WITH EAST GERMANY. INSTEAD, BONN IS USING FIRM DIPLOMATIC PRESSURE AND PLANS TO SUBMIT TO THE UNITED NATIONS A PLAN FOR THE CREATION OF A SPECIAL UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER TO DEAL WITH CASES OF HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS.

(OPT) IF EAST GERMANY CONTINUES TO SHOW SO LITTLE RESPECT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS AND HUMAN LIVES, THERE IS LITTLE QUESTION THAT THESE ACTS WILL BE MADE AN ISSUE AT THE HELSINKI REVIEW CONFERENCE IN BELGRADE NEXT JUNE. IT APPEARS THAT OVER THE WEEKEND THIS FACT HAS BECOME OBVIOUS IN EAST BERLIN AND THAT THE EAST GERMAN

GERMAN GOVERNMENT IN ITS CONTACTS WITH WEST GERMAN REPRESENTATIVES HAS SHOWN READINESS TO EASE THE TENSION. (END OPT)

THE BERLIN WALL AND ALL THE OTHER RESTRICTIONS IMPOSED ON THE FREE MOVEMENT OF GERMANS ACROSS ITS BORDER ALREADY DRAMATIZE A BLATANT CONTRADICTION OF THE INTENTIONS OF THE HELSINKI CONFERENCE. WHAT IS NEEDED NOW IS MORE, NOT LESS, FREEDOM FOR HUMAN MOVEMENT...MORE, NOT LESS, RESPECT FOR HUMAN DIGNITY.

JA/JS/FFB